



## **Summer 2005 Professional Development Opportunity!!!!**

### ***Journal Writing for Critical Thinking***

#### ***Year 1 of the Writing to Win® System for Teaching Writing***

**Who:** Teachers and administrators interested in improving students' writing skills  
**What:** *Journal Writing for Critical Thinking* presented by Dr. Warren E. Combs  
**Where:** Mitchell Technical Institute, 1800 East Spruce, Mitchell SD  
**When:** June 27-29, 2005  
**Why:** Because you want to improve students' writing

### **Background of Writing Instruction in South Dakota:**

*Mid 1990's:* Your state department heard you then. You said you and your students needed help with writing. The state embraced a standard rubric for assessing writing and stuck with it for the last four years, a solid idea. And yet teacher reports and state-wide testing show that the quality of student writing from one year to the next remains flat.

*2005:* We hear you now. We hear you saying, "Given our time constraints, how do we get our students to engage in authentic writing about topics across the curriculum?" What can make students write out what they've learned as a regular routine for learning? What can improve their writing scores? What can make our classes into communities of writers?

The ***Writing to Win® System*** is one answer to these questions. *Writing to Win®* provides tools that help you do what research has shown improves student writing. If you're ready to learn, we're ready to lead.

### **Summer 2005 Training Opportunity!**

The first of three courses for college credit, ***Writing to Win® I*** will be offered June 27 – 29, 2005 at Mitchell Technical Institute (the new Technology Center - take Exit 332), Mitchell, South Dakota. It presents the tools needed for energizing instruction in short writing across the curriculum. The objective is writing fluency. Researchers agree that young writers must write fluently before we teachers can help them become the best writers they can.

***Writing to Win®*** is designed for teams of teachers from each school to be trained as writing coaches in their local schools. In two days, participants will learn the keys to teaching effective short writing.

What results can you expect? Research shows that students do 30% better on tests of knowledge in courses that implement a student self-check routine like the one you will learn. Here is a typical impact of the *Writing to Win* model:

When students completed two short writing assignments a week in every class, their pass rate in a middle school on a state writing test increased from 66% to 91% in a single year. The pass rate at a high school moved from 74% to 98% in three years. See [www.writingtowin.com](http://www.writingtowin.com) for more information.

Schools should send teams of three people including 7 – 12 classroom teachers and administrators. The team members' role will be to return to their school district and implement the concepts learned and serve as writing coaches for other teachers.

The training schedule is as follows:

Monday, June 27	Registration/Orientation	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 28		8:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 29		8:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Each participant will receive the following materials valued at \$103 free of charge:

- ***Journal for Writing Across the Curriculum***, teacher's manual
- ***Log of Entries*** and ***Guide for Writing in Your Journal*** wall charts
- ***Coaching DVD for Journal Writing***, (40 minute interactive video)
- ***Monitoring the Progress of Your Writers*** resource guide for writing coaches

Please bring the following resources for the workshop:

- \_\_\_ copy of the writing curriculum of the district/school
- \_\_\_ sample teacher's textbook for one grade level in math, science or social studies
- \_\_\_ laptop computer
- \_\_\_ curriculum maps, if available

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided both days.

A block of rooms at state rates has been reserved at the Mitchell Holiday Inn. You must book your own room. Deadline for reserving a room is June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Holiday Inn phone number: 996-6501.

Registration is limited to 25 schools - 75 participants.

**College credit and Renewal credit is available. Tuition rate for one undergraduate/graduate credit is \$57.30.**

**For additional information: Contact Marsha Kucker at 224-6287, 280-0650, [mkucker@tie.net](mailto:mkucker@tie.net).**

**Registration deadline is June 10.**

**Register online at: [www.southdakotapd.com](http://www.southdakotapd.com).**

***Sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Education/Office of Career and Technical Education, High Schools that Work and Making Middle Grades Work***